



arts +  
culture  
CITY OF PHOENIX

## CALL TO ARTISTS

S'edav Va'aki Museum Exhibit,  
*Indigenous Identities*

### DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS

October 3, 2025  
5:00 PM Arizona Time

### CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE:

Caitlin Dichter, Exhibit Curator  
Email: [caitlin.dichter@phoenix.gov](mailto:caitlin.dichter@phoenix.gov)



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## PUBLIC ART PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Name	Artist Call for S'edav Va'aki Museum Exhibit, <i>Indigenous Identities</i>
BUDGET	Artist honorarium of \$1000 with potential for additional program speaker fee available.
ELIGIBILITY	Open to professional artists and artist teams 18 years or older who reside in the United States. Must have a lived experience and rich connection with Native American tribes in Arizona.
EMAIL INQUIRES	Caitlin Dichter at <a href="mailto:caitlin.dichter@phoenix.gov">caitlin.dichter@phoenix.gov</a>
DEADLINE TO APPLY	<b>October 3, 2025, at 5:00 pm</b>
APPLICATION LINK	<a href="https://PublicArtist.org">PublicArtist.org</a>
OUR WEBSITE	<a href="#">S'edav Va'aki Museum</a>

## SECTION I – ABOUT US

### S'edav Va'aki Museum

S'edav Va'aki Museum (SVM) is located on a 1,500 year old archaeological site once inhabited by the Ancestral Sonoran Desert people, archaeologically referred to as the Hohokam culture. The museum is just minutes from downtown Phoenix next to Sky Harbor International Airport. This National Historic Landmark and Phoenix Point of Pride has been a part of the City of Phoenix since 1929. It is the largest preserved archaeological site within Phoenix.

### Our Commitment

SVM believes in fair treatment, access, and opportunity for all individuals. Our equity strategy aims to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented marginalized groups' full participation in the Museum's programs and to strengthen equity, diversity, and inclusion in the arts and culture sector for Phoenix residents.

The City of Phoenix fully endorses and supports the concept of equal business and employment opportunities for all persons, regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, genetic information, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

### Land Acknowledgement

The City of Phoenix acknowledges that Phoenix is located within the homeland of the O'odham and Piipaash peoples and their ancestors, who have inhabited this landscape from time immemorial to present day. We honor the elders of both past and present, as well as future generations that enable us to live here today. Further, we acknowledge the sovereignty of the 22 Tribal Nations who continue to steward the lands that make up the state of Arizona.

## SECTION II – SCOPE OF WORK AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SVM requests qualifications from professional working in a variety of media (2D, 3D, or digital) and diverse artistic approaches for its Artist Call for SVM Exhibit, *Indigenous Identities*. **Artists selected will be featured in an exhibition that will run from Fall 2026 through Summer 2027.** A corresponding catalog will be produced and sold which will include images of the artists' work, artist statement, and artist biography. SVM seeks artists whose works explores the complexity, diversity, and resilience of indigenous voices through visual, sculptural, digital, and mixed media arts. We welcome work that reflects on cultural heritage, contemporary indigenous experiences, ancestral knowledge, sovereignty, language, and the ongoing relationship to land and community. Artists are encouraged to challenge stereotypes, reclaim narratives, and share stories that speak to identity in both personal and collective ways. Artwork may be previously created or newly proposed.

To learn more about previous SVM exhibitions, visit:

<https://www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/sedav-vaaki/exhibits.html>.

## Estimated Timeline

August 27, 2025	Call to Artists Released
<b>October 3, 2025</b>	<b>Application Deadline at 5:00 pm (Arizona Time)</b>
October 2025	Selection panel reviews applications and recommends artists to be included in the Exhibition
November 14, 2025	S'edav Va'aki Museum approval of Exhibition selection
Late November 2025	Begin awarding artist selections
May 31, 2026	Artist statements and final artwork dimensions submitted
June 30, 2026	Exhibition submission delivered to S'edav Va'aki Museum
September 2026	Exhibition opens to the public
June 2027	Exhibition closes
August 2027	Submission returned to applicant

## Budget

There will be up to ten (10) artists selected. An honorarium of \$1,000 will be awarded to each artist selected. A monthly speaker series will provide an opportunity for an additional \$100 speaker fee for an in person presentation of the artists' work, or \$50 virtual program.

## SECTION III – RESPONSE INFORMATION

**Cost:** There is no fee to apply to this RFQu.

**Deadline to apply:** Applications must be received no later than 5:00 pm (Arizona Time) on October 3, 2025. Late applications will not be considered.

**Eligibility:** This opportunity is open to any professional artist(s) who reside in the United States with the **demonstrated ability to meet the criteria** (SEE SECTION IV – EVALUATION & SELECTION), regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age or experience level. No previous public art experience is required to apply. Arizona artists are strongly encouraged to apply. Teams are eligible to apply but must designate a lead applicant for communication purposes.

Selection panelists and the panelists' immediate families are excluded from participating in this project. **Applications from Artists' representatives, managers, or galleries will not be accepted.**

**Applicant Pool:** Applicants to this RFQu may be considered for other public art project opportunities developed by SVM and the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture.

**Application Materials:** Applications must be submitted online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org). Do not mail or email applications or original artwork. Applicants are strongly encouraged to retain a complete copy of their application for their records.

You can find more information at [www.phoenix.gov/svmuseum](http://www.phoenix.gov/svmuseum). Applicants can also receive support by contacting PublicArtist.org at [info@publicartist.org](mailto:info@publicartist.org) or 210-701-0775.

1. Letter of Interest (400-word limit) - Think of this as a job application and your cover letter. Be as succinct as possible. Describe why you are interested in this exhibition and highlight any relevant experience.
2. Resume or CV (3-page limit per team member) - Current professional resume or curriculum vitae (CV) including vendor's name, address, email, and phone number. Teams must submit one resume/ CV per team member merged into one PDF file.
3. Work Samples – Up to ten (10) digital images of previously created or proposed work in a .jpg format. Do not add text to your images. We recommend using only one photograph per work sample. Collaging more than one image together may reduce the panelists' ability to see your work clearly. Follow [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) guidelines for sizing.

**Contact information:** The City of Phoenix contact for this Call is Caitlin Dichter, Curator of Exhibits and Digital Content (the "City Contact"). Any questions relating to this Call shall be directed to Caitlin Dichter at [caitlin.dichter@phoenix.gov](mailto:caitlin.dichter@phoenix.gov).

**Helpful Links:** Several online and video resources for application guidance are available from PublicArtist.org:

- Artist FAQs – <https://www.publicartist.org/FAQ.cfm>

## SECTION IV – EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel will be convened by the S'edav Va'aki Museum to review applications received and make recommendations. Members of the panel may include art and design professionals, city staff, and community members. Non-voting advisors to the panel may include additional city staff.

Responses to this Call should be concise, well organized and provide the requested information. Applications lacking the necessary information will not be considered.

At the selection panel meeting, artist applications will be scored using the following criteria:

Criteria Description	Points
1. Work samples submitted are of professional quality and demonstrate artistic quality of previously completed work of a similar scope and scale.	20
2. Submitted artwork reflects the theme of indigenous experiences and identity.	20
3. Demonstrates ability to express their connections to indigenous community and their artistic vision in writing to resonate with a general public audience.	20

## SECTION V – TRANSPARENCY POLICY

Beginning on the date this RFQu is issued and until the date a contract is awarded or the RFQu withdrawn, all persons or entities that respond to this RFQu for the services outlined below, including their employees, agents, representatives, proposed partner(s), subcontractor(s), joint venture(s), member(s), or any of their lobbyists or attorneys, collectively, the “Respondent” must refrain from any direct or indirect contact with any person other than the designated procurement officer who may play a part in the selection process, including members of the evaluation panel, the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Deputy City Managers, department heads, the Mayor and other members of the Phoenix City Council. As long as the solicitation is not discussed, Respondents may continue to conduct business with the City and discuss business that is unrelated to the solicitation with City staff.

This policy is intended to create a level playing field for all Respondents, assure that contracts are awarded in public, and protect the integrity of the selection process. RESPONDENTS THAT VIOLATE THIS POLICY SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED.

## SECTION VI – TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

Any Respondent that submits a response to this Call shall be deemed to agree to the following terms and conditions if they perform work for the City of Phoenix (the “City”):

**Incurred Costs:** Each Respondent will be responsible for all costs incurred in preparing a response to this Call. All materials and documents submitted by the Respondent in response to this Call or any additional requests for materials and documents made by the City for evaluation pursuant to this Call will become the property of the City and will not be returned. Respondents selected by the City to move forward in this project may be eligible to receive assistance with costs incurred as part of this Call to Artists. Respondents asked to provide supplemental information or participate in interviews may be eligible for financial assistance depending on project budget. Further information will be provided as deemed appropriate by the City.

Respondents should assume that no reimbursement will be provided unless the City explicitly indicates otherwise.

**Reservation of Rights by City:** The City is not obligated to accept any submittal or to negotiate with any Respondent. The City reserves the right to accept submittals which are deemed most favorable and in the best interests of the City after all submittals have been examined and canvassed, to reject any or all submittals, and to be the sole judge of the Respondents best suited for the City.

The issuance of this Call and the acceptance of any response to this Call does not constitute an agreement by the City that any contract shall actually be entered into by the City.

**Right to Disqualify:** The City reserves the right to disqualify from consideration for any City work any Respondent who fails to provide information or data requested or who provides materially inaccurate or misleading information or data. The City further reserves the right to disqualify from consideration for any City work any Respondent on the basis of any real or apparent conflict of interest that is disclosed by the Respondent or discovered through any other data or information available to the City. This disqualification is at the sole discretion of the City. By submission of an RFQ response, each Respondent waives any right to object now or at any future time, before anybody or agency (including, but not limited to, the City Council of the City or any court) as to the exercise by the City of such right to disqualify or as to any disqualification by reason of real or apparent conflict of interest determined by the City.

**Applicable Law:** Any and all disputes arising under any contract resulting from this Call or otherwise in connection with this Call, shall be governed according to the laws of the State of Arizona, and the Respondent submitting a Call response agrees that the venue for any action brought to enforce provisions of a contract resulting from this Call shall be in the State of Arizona.

**Compliance with Laws:** Respondents who successfully obtain a City contract shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, statutes, codes, rules and regulations in the course of performing their duties under the contract.



**No Verbal Agreements:** No verbal agreement or conversation with any officer, agent, or employee of the City either before or after execution of any contract, if any, shall affect or modify any of the terms or obligations contained or to be contained in such contract. Any such verbal agreements or conversation shall be considered as unofficial information and in no way binding upon the City or any Respondent selected from the Call to enter into an agreement. All agreements shall be made in writing and contract changes shall be made by written amendment signed by both parties.

**Non-waiver of Liability:** The City, as a public entity supported by tax monies, in execution of its public trust, cannot agree to waive any lawful or legitimate right to recover monies lawfully due it. Therefore, any Respondent submitting a Call response agrees that it will not insist upon or demand any statement whereby the City agrees to limit in advance or waive any right the City might have to recover actual lawful damages in any court of law under applicable Arizona law.

## **SECTION VII – ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The following terms and conditions shall apply, be incorporated and made a part of any contract resulting from this RFQu:

**Employment Disclaimer:** Any Respondent that enters into a contract with the City as a result of this RFQU agrees it is not intended to constitute, create, give rise to, or otherwise recognize a joint venture, partnership or formal business association or organization of any kind, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be only those expressly set forth in the contract. The Respondent shall agree that no individual performing under such contract on behalf of the Respondent will be considered a City employee, and that no rights of City Civil Service, City retirement or City personnel rules shall accrue to such individual. Such Respondent shall have total responsibility for all salaries, wages, bonuses, retirement, withholdings, worker's compensation, other employee benefits, and all taxes and premiums appurtenant thereto concerning such individual and shall save and hold harmless the City with respect thereto.

**Legal Worker Requirements:** The City is prohibited by A.R.S. § 41-4401 from awarding a contract to any Respondent who fails, or whose subcontractors fail, to comply with A.R.S. § 23-214(A). Therefore, any Respondent that enters into a contract with the City as a result of this RFQU agrees that:

1. The Respondent, and each subcontractor it uses, warrants their compliance with all federal immigration laws and regulations that relate to their employees and their compliance with A.R.S. § 23-214, Subsection A.
2. A breach of warranty under paragraph a. shall be deemed a material breach of the contract and is subject to penalties up to and including termination of the contract.
3. The City retains the legal right to inspect the papers of the Respondent or subcontractor employee(s) who work(s) on the contract to ensure that the Respondent or subcontractor is complying with the warranty under Paragraph a.

**Lawful Presence Requirement:** Any Respondent that enters into a contract with the City as a result of this RFQ agrees that pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 1-501 and 1-502, the City is prohibited from awarding a contract to any natural person who cannot establish that such person is lawfully present in the United States. To establish lawful presence, if Respondent is a person, Respondent will agree to produce qualifying identification and sign a City-provided affidavit affirming that the identification provided is genuine. This requirement will be imposed at the time of contract award. This requirement does not apply to business organizations such as corporations, partnerships or limited liability companies.

**Transactional Conflicts of Interest:** Each Respondent that enters into any contract resulting from this RFQ submittal agrees that the contract is subject to cancellation by the City pursuant to the provisions of A.R.S. §38-511.

**General Insurance Requirements:** Vendors selected for City of Phoenix projects must procure and maintain insurance until all its obligations under the resulting agreement have been discharged, including any warranty periods. These insurance requirements are minimum requirements and in no way limit the indemnity covenants. The City in no way warrants that the minimum limits stated in this section are sufficient to protect the Vendor from liabilities that might arise from or in connection with the performance of the contract services by the Vendor, its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors.

**Liability Coverage:** The selected Vendor(s) shall provide coverage:

Automobile Liability: Bodily injury and property damage for any owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles used in the performance of the contract.

**Verification of Coverage:** Vendor must furnish the City with certificates of insurance (ACORD form or equivalent approved by the City) as required by a resulting agreement. The certificates for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf.

**Indemnification:** The Vendor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City and its officers, agents, and employees from and against all Claims (as defined below) suffered or incurred by the City as a result of any claim that the Artwork, the Artwork Design, or any other work or service provided by the Vendor in connection with this Agreement, infringes any patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, or other intellectual property right(s) of a third party.

1. Indemnification of City

The Vendor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City and its officers, officials, agents and employees ("Indemnitee") from and against any and all claims, actions, liabilities, damages, losses or expenses, including court costs, attorneys' fees, and costs of claim processing, investigation and litigation ("Claims") caused or alleged to be caused, in whole or in part, by the wrongful, negligent or willful acts, or errors or omissions, of the Vendor or any of its owners, officers, directors, agents, employees, or subcontractors in connection with this Agreement. This indemnity includes any claim or amount arising out of or recovered under workers' compensation law or on account of the failure of the Vendor to conform to any federal, state or local law, statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, or court decree. The Vendor must indemnify

local law, statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, or court decree. The Vendor must indemnify Indemnatee from and against any and all Claims, except those arising solely from the Indemnatee's own negligent or willful acts or omissions. The Vendor is responsible for primary loss investigation, defense and judgment costs where this indemnification applies. In consideration of the award of this Agreement, the Vendor agrees to waive all rights of subrogation against Indemnatee for losses arising from or related to this Agreement. The obligations of Vendor under this provision survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

## 2. Vendor's Obligations for Work of Third Party

If any part of the Vendor's Services depends on proper execution or results upon the work of a third party, the Vendor shall immediately report to the City any apparent discrepancies or other defects in such other work that renders it unsuitable for proper execution or results. The Vendor shall not be responsible for any liability or failure to fulfill the Vendor's obligations due to such reported discrepancies or defects.

\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*